

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on July 10, 2008. Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. In view of the following remarks, as well as the preceding amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,892,496 to Youngs et al. (hereinafter Youngs) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,571,515 to Samways et al. (hereinafter Samways). Claim 1 is the sole remaining independent claim subject to this rejection. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In contrast to Applicants' independent claim 1, as amended, the combination of Youngs and Samways fails to disclose the fasteners "supporting the door component on said carrier plate before said carrier plate is positioned between said door frame and said door trim panel in the assembly." The Examiner states that "the claims do not require that fasteners 16 to actually support the door component on the carrier plate before the carrier plate is positioned on the door frame." As apparent in the amendment made to claim 1, Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion presented on page 3 of the Office Action.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Samways discloses "a plurality of fasteners 16 securing the door component F to the carrier plate 1 as shown in figure 2, said fasteners 16 further securing the door component F and said carrier plate 1 to the door frame 2, and said fasteners 16 configured to initially support said door component F on said carrier plate 1 before said carrier plate is positioned on said door frame." However, the fasteners (16) that are used to fasten the carrier plate and door component to the door frame are not visible in Figures 1 and 2 of Samways. The only Figures in Samways that actually show the fasteners (16) are views, such as Figures 3 and 4, that depict the carrier plate (1) and door component F after they are assembled with the door frame. In fact, the absence of the fasteners (16) from the exploded views in Figures 1 and 2 is objective evidence that the fasteners (16) do not support the door component F on the carrier plate (1) before the carrier plate (10) is positioned on the door frame.

Youngs, which is merely used by the Examiner as a teaching of a trim panel and a polypropylene construction, fails to remedy this deficiency in the disclosure of Samways.

Hence, differences exist between the claimed invention and the combined disclosure of Youngs and Samways. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. For this reason alone, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Because claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 depend from independent claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are also patentable. Furthermore, claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 each recite a unique combination of elements not disclosed or suggested by the secondary reference Youngs in combination with the primary reference Samways.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there is any additional matter that may be resolved by telephone or fax, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

/William R. Allen/
William R. Allen, Reg. No. 48,389

2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-2324
(513) 421-7269 (facsimile)